

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A license management apparatus for managing a license associated with a service that is provided from a service offer service unit to a client, the client being a separate device from the service offer service unit, the license management apparatus comprising:

a license management section managing the license;

a license acquisition request receiving section receiving an acquisition request for the license from said service offer service unit; and

a license sending section sending the license to said service offer service unit in response to the acquisition request for the license so that the client is permitted to use the service from the service offer service unit.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The license management apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a license counting section counting a value associated with the license.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The license management apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said license counting section counts the value when the license is acquired from an authentication section that issues the license.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The license management apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said license counting section counts the value when the license is sent to said service offer service unit in response to the acquisition request for the license.

Claim 5 (Original): The license management apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the acquisition request for the license includes a license identifier that identifies the license.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The license management apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said license management section manages the license and the license identifier that identifies the license by relating to each other.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The license management apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a license identifier acquisition request receiving section receiving an acquisition request for the license identifier that identifies the license.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The license management apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a license identifier sending section sending the license identifier to a requesting section in response to the acquisition request for the license identifier that identifies the license.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A service offer apparatus comprising a service offer section service unit providing a service to a client, the client being a separate device from the service offer service unit, wherein said service offer service unit comprises:

a license acquisition request sending section sending an acquisition request for the license associated with the service to a license managing section managing the license; and a license receiving section receiving the license from said license management section so that the client is permitted to use the service from the service offer service unit.

Claim 10 (Original): The service offer apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the acquisition request for the license contains a license identifier that identifies the license.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The service offer apparatus as claimed in claim 9, further comprising a license sending section sending the license acquired from said license management section to said license management section.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A license management method for managing a license associated with a service that is provided from a service offer service unit to a client, the client being a separate device from the service offer service unit, the license management method comprising:

 a license management step of managing the license;
 a license acquisition request receiving step of receiving an acquisition request for the license from said service offer service unit; and
 a license sending step of sending the license to said service offer service unit in response to the acquisition request for the license so that the client is permitted to use the service from the service offer service unit.

Claim 13 (Original): The license management method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising a license counting step of counting a value associated with the license.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The license management method as claimed in claim 13, wherein, in said license counting step, the value associated with the license is counted when the license is acquired from an authentication section that issues the license.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The license management method as claimed in claim 13, wherein, in said license counting step, the value associated with the license is counted when the license is sent to said service offer service unit in response to the acquisition request for the license.

Claim 16 (Original): The license management method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the acquisition request for the license includes a license identifier that identifies the license.

Claim 17 (Original): The license management method as claimed in claim 12, wherein, in said license management step, the license and the license identifier that identifies the license are managed by being related to each other.

Claim 18 (Original): The license management method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising a license identifier acquisition request receiving step of receiving an acquisition request for the license identifier that identifies the license.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The license management method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising a license identifier sending step of sending the license identifier to a requesting section in response to the acquisition request for the license identifier that identifies the license.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A service offer method for providing a service from a service offer service unit to a client, the client being a separate device from the service offer service unit, comprising:

a license acquisition request sending step of sending an acquisition request for the license associated with the service to a license managing section that manages the license; and

a license receiving step of receiving the license from said license management section so that the client is permitted to use the service from the service offer service unit.

Claim 21 (Original): The service offer method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the acquisition request for the license contains a license identifier that identifies the license.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The service offer method as claimed in claim 20, further comprising a license sending step of sending the license acquired from said license management section to said license management section.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A license management program for causing a computer to perform a license management method for managing a license associated with a service that is provided from a service offer service unit to a client, the client being a separate device from the service offer service unit, the license management method comprising:
a license management step of managing the license;
a license acquisition request receiving step of receiving an acquisition request for the license from said service offer service unit; and
a license sending step of sending the license to said service offer service unit in response to the acquisition request for the license so that the client is permitted to use the service from the service offer service unit.

Claim 24 (Original): The license management program as claimed in claim 23, wherein the license management method further comprises a license counting step of counting a value associated with the license.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The license management program as claimed in claim 24, wherein, in said license counting step, the value associated with the license is counted when the license is acquired from an authentication section that issues the license.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The license management program as claimed in claim 23, wherein, in said license counting step, the value associated with the license is counted when the license is sent to said service offer service unit in response to the acquisition request for the license.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The license management program as claimed in claim 23, wherein the acquisition request for the license includes a license identifier that identifies the license.

Claim 28 (Original): The license management program as claimed in claim 23, wherein, in said license management step, the license and the license identifier that identifies the license are managed by being related to each other.

Claim 29 (Original): The license management program as claimed in claim 23, wherein the license management method further comprises a license identifier acquisition request receiving step of receiving an acquisition request for the license identifier that identifies the license.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The license management program as claimed in claim 23, wherein the license management program further comprises a license identifier sending step of sending the license identifier to a requesting section in response to the acquisition request for the license identifier that identifies the license.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): A service offer program for causing a computer to perform a service offer method for providing a service from a service offer service unit to a client, the client being a separate device from the service offer service unit, comprising:

a license acquisition request sending step of sending an acquisition request for the license associated with the service to a license managing section that manages the license; and

a license receiving step of receiving the license from said license management section so that the client is permitted to use the service from the service offer service unit.

Claim 32 (Original): The service offer program as claimed in claim 31, wherein the acquisition request for the license contains a license identifier that identifies the license.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The service offer program as claimed in claim 31, wherein the service offer method further comprises a license sending step of sending the license acquired from said license management section to said license management section.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable recording medium storing a license management program for causing a computer to perform a license management method for managing a license associated with a service that is provided from service offer

service unit to a client, the client being a separate device from the service offer service unit,

the license management method comprising:

 a license management step of managing the license;

 a license acquisition request receiving step of receiving an acquisition request for the license from said service offer service unit; and

 a license sending step of sending the license to said service offer service unit in response to the acquisition request for the license so that the client is permitted to use the service from the service offer service unit.

Claim 35 (Original): The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 34, wherein the license management method further comprises a license counting step of counting a value associated with the license.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 35, wherein, in said license counting step, the value associated with the license is counted when the license is acquired from an authentication section that issues the license.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 34, wherein, in said license counting step, the value associated with the license is counted when the license is sent to said service offer service unit in response to the acquisition request for the license.

Claim 38 (Original): The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 34, wherein the acquisition request for the license includes a license identifier that identifies the license.

Claim 39 (Original): The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 34, wherein, in said license management step, the license and the license identifier that identifies the license are managed by being related to each other.

Claim 40 (Original): The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 34, wherein the license management method further comprises a license identifier acquisition request receiving step of receiving an acquisition request for the license identifier that identifies the license.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 34, wherein the license management program further comprises a license identifier sending step of sending the license identifier to a requesting section in response to the acquisition request for the license identifier that identifies the license.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable recording medium storing a service offer program for causing a computer to perform a service offer method for providing a service from a service offer service unit to a client, the client being a separate device from the service offer service unit, comprising:

a license acquisition request sending step of sending an acquisition request for the license associated with the service to a license managing section that manages the license; and

a license receiving step of receiving the license from said license management section so that the client is permitted to use the service from the service offer service unit.

Claim 43 (Original): The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 42, wherein the acquisition request for the license contains a license identifier that identifies the license.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 42, wherein the service offer method further comprises a license sending step of sending the license acquired from said license management section to said license management section.